# THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI WESTERN DIVISION

MICHAEL AND SHELLIE GILMOR, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

Case No. 4:10-cv-00189-ODS

VS.

PREFERRED CREDIT CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

# NOTICE TO TAKE CONTINUED VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF IMPAC FUNDING CORPORATION

To: Daniel J. Tobin
Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP
4800 Montgomery Lane, Suite 350
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Barry L. Pickens Spencer, Fane, Britt & Browne, LLP 1000 Walnut St., Suite 1400 Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Attorneys for Impac Funding Corporation

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b)(6), Plaintiffs will take the continued deposition of Impac Funding Corporation at Esquire Solutions, 535 Anton Boulevard, Suite 400, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (714) 668-0166, on Tuesday, June 19 at 1:00 p.m., or at the conclusion of Jo Ann Niffenegger's deposition, whichever occurs first, and shall continue thereafter from day to day, or on such other dates as the parties may agree, until concluded.

The deposition will be recorded by stenographic and sound-and-visual means. Mike Cooper of Esquire Solutions, 535 Anton Boulevard, Suite 400, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 is expected to be the

recording technician.

A list of the matters upon which the representative(s) will continue to be examined is attached as **Exhibit A** to the *Second Amended Notice of Video Deposition* (Doc. 374).

Dated: June 12, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

WALTERS BENDER STROHBEHN & VAUGHAN, P.C.

By: /s/ Kip D. Richards

R. Frederick Walters - Mo. Bar 25069 Kip D. Richards – Mo. Bar 39743 David M. Skeens - Mo. Bar 35728 Karen W. Renwick – Mo. Bar 41271 J. Michael Vaughan Mo. – Bar 24989 Garrett M. Hodes - Mo. Bar 50221 Matthew R. Crimmins – Mo. Bar 53138 Bruce V. Nguyen – Mo. Bar 52893 2500 City Center Square 1100 Main Street P.O. Box 26188 Kansas City, MO 64196 (816) 421-6620 (816) 421-4747 (Facsimile) fwalters@wbsvlaw.com krichards@wbsvlaw.com dskeens@wbsvlaw.com krenwick@wbsvlaw.com mvaughan@wbsvlaw.com ghodes@wbsvlaw.com mcrimmins@wbsvlaw.com bnguyen@wbsvlaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS AND CLASS COUNSEL

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2012, I electronically filed the above and foregoing document with the Clerk of Court of the Western District of Missouri using the Court's ECF system, which will send notification of said filing to all counsel of record who are ECF participants. In addition, a copy was served by U.S. mail, First-Class Postage Prepaid, to:

Arthur E. Kechijian, Manager United Mortgage C.B., LLC P.O. Box 471827 Charlotte, NC 28247 **Defendant United Mortgage C.B., L.L.C**.

/s/ Kip D. Richards
---------------------

#### **EXHIBIT A**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Impac Funding Corp., You or Your. The name "Impac Funding Corp.," "You," and "your," shall refer individually and collectively to the Defendant Impac Funding Corporation, its officers, directors, employees, attorneys, investigators or other representatives or agents, and to any merged, consolidated or acquired predecessor or successor corporation or entity related to Impac Funding Corporation, including but not limited to "Impac Companies," "Impac Lending Group," "ICI Funding Corp." "Imperial Credit Mortgage Holdings, Inc.," "Imperial Warehouse Lending Group.," "Imperial Credit Commercial Holdings," "Imperial Credit Capital Corp.," "Imperial Credit, Inc." and/or "ICI Funding Corp." and includes all employers of all persons executing any verification pages on interrogatories propounded by Plaintiffs to Impac Funding Corp., or any persons previously appearing for a deposition in this matter on behalf of Impac Funding Corp.
- 2. <u>Class Members' Loans.</u> The term "Class Members' Loans" means those loans identified on the electronic spreadsheet attached as **Exhibit 1** to: (a) Impac Funding Corp.'s Supplemental Answers to Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories dated April 1, 2011; (b) Impac Funding Corp.'s Supplemental Responses to Plaintiffs' Interrogatories and Request for Production dated September 27, 2011; and (c) any additional second mortgage loans secured by an interest in residential real estate situated in Missouri that "Impac Funding Corp." purchased or otherwise acquired from Preferred Credit Corporation (f/k/a Preferred Mortgage Corporation or TAR Preferred Mortgage Corporation).

#### MATTERS UPON WHICH EXAMINATION IS REQUESTED

#### Supplemental Responses to Plaintiffs' Discovery

1. With respect to the electronic spreadsheet attached as **Exhibit 1** to Impac Funding Corp.'s Supplemental Answers to Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories, dated April 1, 2011: (a) the sources of data and information used to create the spreadsheet and (b) persons with responsibility for the creation of the spreadsheet.

#### Your Corporate Structure and Organization

- 2. The names and organization of all entities through which You acquired the Class Members' loans, including, but not limited to, a description of the following entities and a description of the relationship between the following entities: "Impac Companies," "Impac Lending Group," "ICI Funding Corp." "Imperial Credit Mortgage Holdings, Inc.," "Imperial Warehouse Lending Group.," "Imperial Credit Commercial Holdings," "Imperial Credit Capital Corp.," "Imperial Credit, Inc." and/or "ICI Funding Corp."
  - 3. The corporate organization or structure that includes Impac Funding Corp.
- 4. The identity and organization of all departments or operating divisions with responsibility for receipt, review, analysis and acquisition of mortgage loans, including the Class Members' Loans, including, the delegation of responsibility to persons with the following job or title descriptions: "Senior VP Operations," "VP Secondary Marketing," "AVP Secondary Marketing," "Follow Up Manager Document Control," and "AVP Loan Delivery."
- 5. The identity and organization of all departments or operating divisions with responsibility for the securitization and/or sale of mortgage loans, including the Class Members' Loans.

#### Record Retention and Authentication

- 6. With respect to the documents and records requested by Plaintiffs in this lawsuit:
  (a) the existence and whereabouts of all requested documents and records; (b) your search for all documents and records; (c) persons with responsibility for the search for responsive documents and records; and (d) and the identity(ies) of all custodians of documents.
- 7. With respect to the loan files and loan payment histories for the Class Members' Loans: (a) their past and current existence; (b) their past and current whereabouts; (c) your search for the loan files and loan payment histories for the Class Members' Loans; (d) persons with responsibility for the search for the loan files and loan payment histories for the Class Members' Loans; and (e) the identity(ies) of all custodians of the Class Members' loan files and loan payment histories.
- 8. With respect to all documents and records concerning your relationship and agreements with Preferred Credit Corporation: (a) their past and current existence; (b) their past and current whereabouts; (c) your search for all documents and records concerning your relationship and agreements with Preferred Credit Corporation; (d) persons with responsibility for the search for all documents and records concerning your relationship and agreements with Preferred Credit Corporation; and (e) the identity(ies) of all custodians of all documents and records concerning your relationship and agreements with Preferred Credit Corporation.
- 9. Your record retention requirements, record keeping system(s) and document/information-retention policies including, without limitation, the method(s) by which You kept or maintained the documents and electronic data generated in connection with Your purchase and ownership of the Class Members' Loans.

#### State Licensure

10. Your license in Missouri, or any license exemption in the State of Missouri, which permits You to originate, acquire and/or service mortgage loans.

#### Agreements with Originating Lender(s)

- 11. The Asset Purchase and Mortgage Loan Purchase and Sale Agreement (Servicing Released) dated August 11, 1997 between ICI Funding Corporation and Preferred Credit Corp. (IMPAC 2011 021117). The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, the identity, content and whereabouts of the descriptions, programs, guidelines, forms, mortgage loan schedules, compliance certificates and other documents referenced as Exhibits to the stated August 11, 1997 Agreement, and the July 14, 1997 Amended and Restated Mortgage Loan Purchase and Sale Agreement Servicing Released (and any prior version(s) of that agreement), which is also referenced in the August 11, 1997 Agreement.
- 12. Your relationship with Preferred Credit Corp., including the nature of all agreements, amendments to agreements, or commitments to purchase, with respect to the origination, purchase and/or sale of mortgage loans. The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, the July 14, 1997 Amended and Restated Mortgage Loan Purchase and Sale Agreement Servicing Released, any original or prior versions of that amended and restated agreement, the Asset Purchase and Mortgage Loan Purchase and Sale Agreement Servicing Released dated August 11, 1997, and any other agreements between or among You and Preferred Credit Corp. The inquiry will also include, but not be limited to, Your knowledge of (and any original and/or continued efforts to determine) Preferred Credit Corp.'s residential second mortgage lending operations, programs and practices in general, the type and amount of loan fees and closing costs that Preferred Credit Corp. had assessed and/or was assessing for those loans, the projected

and/or actual amount of revenue or profit that Preferred Credit Corp. sought to receive or realize per loan and its source, any documents supplied by or obtained from Preferred Credit Corp. in regard to the above matters, and the whereabouts of such documents, if any.

- 13. The formation of your relationship with Preferred Credit Corp., including the consideration, evaluation, analysis, and due diligence performed by You, or for You, purposes of your decision to enter into any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp.
- 14. All audits or investigations of Preferred Credit Corp. performed by You or for You in connection with your decision to enter into any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., for the purpose of any periodic or annual review, and/or at any time prior to, in connection with, or following your termination of any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp.
- 15. The identification of policies, guidelines or procedures, all documents or records, all computer programs, internet-based services or other applications that You used or relied upon to accept or approve your relationship with Preferred Credit Corp. or that You reviewed or relied upon in connection with your decision to enter into any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp.
  - 16. Your periodic or annual reviews of your relationship with Preferred Credit Corp.
- 17. The identification of policies, guidelines or procedures, all documents or records, all computer programs, internet-based services or other applications that You used or relied upon to annually or periodically review your relationship with Preferred Credit Corp.
- 18. The termination of your relationship with Preferred Credit Corp, including consideration, evaluation, analysis, and due diligence for the termination or suspension of your

relationship with Preferred Credit Corp. and/or your decision to suspend or terminate any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp.

### Warehouse Lender Agreements

19. The identity of any lenders, warehouse lenders or other person or entities from or through which Preferred Credit Corp. received all or part of the money needed to close and/or fund any mortgage loan that You purchased or acquired from Preferred Credit Corp. pursuant to or in connection with any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp. The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, the manner in which the purchase price for the loans You purchased was paid (e.g., the identities of the payees and payors, the accounts from and to which the money was withdrawn, sent or deposited, and the timing and terms of payment).

#### Loan Acquisition and Purchase

- 20. Your acquisition or purchase of the Class Members' Loans. The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, the manner in which the purchase price for the loans You purchased was paid (e.g., the identities of the payees and payors, the accounts from and to which the money was withdrawn, sent or deposited, and the timing and terms of payment).
- 21. The process used by You to receive, review, analyze and/or approve for purchase loans submitted by Preferred Credit Corp., which loans include the Class Members' loans. The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, any due diligence and compliance reviews of the loans proposed or performed by You, or by an independent consultant on your behalf, or by another person or consultant that reviewed the loans and shared its findings with You. The nature, extent and purpose of such due diligence and compliance reviews, the procedures to be followed, the identities of the persons and consulting forms who performed the reviews, the findings and

conclusions reached, and the documents generated as a result, will be covered. This Matter specifically also includes, but is not limited to, any due diligence and compliance reviews proposed and/or performed by You or others to determine whether the loans (a) complied with Federal laws; (b) complied with California state laws; (c) complied with Missouri state laws; and/or (d) complied with the laws of any other states.

- 22. Any agreements with Preferred Credit Corp. with respect to the purchase or acquisition of mortgage loans covered by the provisions of the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, including 15 U.S.C. §1602(aa) and/or 12 C.F.R. § 226.32.
- You in connection with Your purchase of loans from Preferred Credit Corp. The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, Your knowledge of (and any original and/or continued efforts to determine) Preferred Credit Corp.'s residential second mortgage lending operations, programs and practices in general, the type and amount of loan fees and closing costs that Preferred Credit Corp. had assessed and/or was assessing for those loans, the projected and/or actual amount of revenue or profit that Preferred Credit Corp. sought to receive or realize per loan and its source, any documents supplied by or obtained from Preferred Credit Corp. in regard to the above matters, and the whereabouts of such documents, if any.
- 24. Your policies and procedures for the transmission of loan files from the originating lender for loans acquired by You from the originating lender and any documents within those files to You and/or to any other entity or third party performing custodial or other services for You.
- 25. Your policies and procedures for the receipt and retention of original or authentic legal documents or records from the Class Members' Loan files by You and/or to any other

entity or third party performing custodial or other services for You.

- 26. With respect to the final HUD-1A Settlement Statement for each of the Class Members' Loans: (a) their past and current existence; (b) their past and current whereabouts; (c) your search for final HUD-1A Settlement Statement for each of the Class Members' Loans; (d) persons with responsibility for the search for final HUD-1A Settlement Statement for each of the Class Members' Loans; and (e) the identity(ies) of all custodians of the final HUD-1A Settlement Statement for each of the Class Members' Loans.
- 27. The electronic information and other data generated by You or for You in connection with your acquisition of the Class Members' Loans, including, all electronic operating systems or computers programs used by You in connection with your acquisition or purchase of mortgage loans.
- 28. The identification of all electronic records maintained by You or for You concerning the Class Members' Loans.
- 29. The identification and/or use of any policies, guidelines, or procedures, computer programs, internet-based applications that You used or relied upon to review, consider, analyze or approve, accept or reject loans submitted for purchase from Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.

#### Ownership of Loans and Participation Sales

- 30. The identities of any and all entities having any ownership interests in the Class Members' Loans, including the nature and description their any ownership interest in the Class Members' Loans.
- 31. Your relationship with Novelle Financial Services with respect to the ownership or assignment of mortgage loans.

#### Third Party Services in Connection with Acquisition or Purchase of Loans

32. The services performed by any third parties or consultants in connection with your decision to purchase or not purchase loans originated by Preferred Credit Corp., including the nature of any independent audits, accountings, reports or due diligence or compliance services that were performed for you or that you reviewed or relied upon in connection with your decision to purchase or not purchase loans originated by Preferred Credit Corp.

## Custodial Agreement

- 33. Your Custodial Agreement for Conventional Residential Mortgage Loans (IMPAC 2011 020964), including all certifications, releases, transmittals and notices made a part thereto as Exhibits.
- 34. The nature and description of your Custodial Agreement with Banker's Trust Company of California or any successor entity.

#### Representations and Warranties

- 35. The representations and warranties made by Preferred Credit Corp., concerning Preferred Credit Corp., in connection with any sale of loans to You pursuant to any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement between You and Preferred Credit Corp.
- 36. The representations and warranties made by Preferred Credit Corp., concerning any loans sold or offered for sale by Preferred Credit Corp., in connection with any sale of loans to You pursuant to any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement between You and Preferred Credit Corp.
- 37. Your receipt, review and analysis, if any, of any Quality Control Plan or compliance guide or manual of Preferred Credit Corporation as part of Your operations.
  - 38. The identification of all of Your policies and procedures, all documents or records

upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that You relied upon to determine whether Preferred Credit Corp. had complied with all warranties and representations made by it to You pursuant to any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement between You and Preferred Credit Corp.

39. Your contention, if any, that Preferred Credit Corp. breached or violated any representation or warranty made to You pursuant to any asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement between You and Preferred Credit Corp.

#### Compliance and Due Diligence

- 40. The policies and procedures used by You or relied upon by You to determine whether the loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans, complied with any applicable state or federal laws. The inquiry will include, but not be limited to, any due diligence and compliance reviews of the loans proposed or performed by You, or by an independent consultant on your behalf, or by another person or consultant that reviewed the loans and shared its findings with You. The nature, extent and purpose of such due diligence and compliance reviews, the procedures to be followed, the identities of the persons and consulting forms who performed the reviews, the findings and conclusions reached, and the documents generated as a result, will be covered. This Matter specifically also includes, but is not limited to, any due diligence and compliance reviews proposed and/or performed by You or others to determine whether the loans (a) complied with Federal laws; (b) complied with California state laws; (c) complied with Missouri state laws; and/or (d) complied with the laws of any other states.
- 41. Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by

You or that were relied upon by You to determine whether the borrowers received all required federal disclosures in connection with the mortgage loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.

- 42. Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to determine whether the borrowers received all required state disclosures in connection with the mortgage loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.
- 43. Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to determine whether the originating lender, including Preferred Credit Corp., used standard form documents required or mandated by federal law in connection with the mortgage loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.
- 44. Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to determine whether the originating lender, including Preferred Credit Corp., used standard form documents required or mandated by state law, including Missouri law, in connection with the mortgage loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.

- 45. Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to determine whether the originating lender, including Preferred Credit Corp., charged, contracted for and/or received any closing cost or settlement charge not permitted or authorized by federal law in connection with the mortgage loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.
- 46. Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and all computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to determine whether the originating lender, including Preferred Credit Corp., charged, contracted for and/or received any closing cost or settlement charge not permitted or authorized by state law, including Missouri law, in connection with the mortgage loans that You acquired pursuant to your asset or mortgage loan purchase agreement with Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' loans.
- 47. The identification and/or use of any policies, guidelines, or procedures, computer programs, internet-based applications that You used or relied upon to determine whether the settlement charges and fees charged on the Class Members' Loans complied with Missouri state law or regulation.
- 48. The identification of Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and the computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to test or determine whether any mortgage loan purchased or obtained by You was a loan governed by the provisions of the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, including 15 U.S.C. §1602(aa) and/or 12 C.F.R. §

226.32.

- 49. The identification of Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and the computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to verify the accuracy or necessity of any notice that any loans purchased by You from Preferred Credit Corp. were governed by the provisions of the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, including 15 U.S.C. §1602(aa) and/or 12 C.F.R. § 226.32.
- 50. The identification of any electronic records maintained by You which identify whether the whether loans You purchased and/or acquired from other lenders were governed by the provisions of the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act, including 15 U.S.C. §1602(aa) and/or 12 C.F.R. § 226.32.
- 51. The identity, use and whereabouts of any charts, matrix or matrices, schedules, summary, publications, resource materials or other documents, including all computer programs, Internet-based services, and electronic applications and mechanism, used by You or relied upon by You or that You consulted in conjunction with Your purchase of any loans from Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' Loans.

#### Loan Securitization and Sale

- 52. Your sale and/or assignment of the Class Members' Loans.
- 53. Your relationship with or relation to the entities to which the Class Members' Loans were sold and/or assigned.
- 54. The nature and description of the processes and transactions for the securitization of loans acquired or purchased by You, including those loans that You acquired or purchased from Preferred Credit Corp. and the Class Members' Loans. The inquiry will include, but not be

limited to, an explanation of: (a) any economic and financial interests, expected and actual, retained and/or realized or to be realized by You and the other participants in the securitization; and (b) any residual or other interest in the loans and/or investment that You and the other participants in the securitization retained or acquired in connection with the securitization.

- 55. The disclosures, certifications and verifications made by You, or received by You, in conjunction with the securitization of the Class Members' Loans.
- 56. The letters and opinions made by You, or received by You, in conjunction with the securitization of the Class Members' Loans.
- 57. The representations and warranties made by You in conjunction with the sale or assignment of the Class Members' Loans including, whether the loans comply with state laws or regulations governing the settlement charges or fees that may be charged on such loans.

#### Agreements with Franklin Credit Management Corporation

- 58. The Loan Purchase Agreement dated October 10, 2003 between Impac Companies and Franklin Credit Management Corporation. (IMPAC 2011 020992)
- 59. Your relationship with Franklin Credit Management Corporation., including the nature of all agreements with respect to the origination, purchase and/or sale of mortgage loans.

### Third Party Services in Connection with Securitization or Sale of Loans

- 60. The services performed by any third parties in connection with your decision to purchase the Class Members' loans, including the nature of any independent audits, accountings or due diligence or compliance services performed for You.
- 61. The reports or audits made by You, or for You, concerning or for the securitization of any group or pool of loans which includes any of the Class Members' Loans.
  - 62. The prospectuses and prospectus supplements for the loan securitizations that

include the Class Members' Loans.

#### Loan Servicing.

- 63. The servicing of the Class Members' loans, including the identities and descriptions of any operations or actions performed with respect to the Class Members' Loans by any "servicer," "master servicer or "subservicer."
- 64. The agreements which relate to or govern the servicing of the Class Members' Loans, including the Subservicing Agreement dated June 25, 1996 Between Imperial Credit Mortgage Holdings, Inc., Imperial Warehouse Lending Group., ICI Funding Corp., Imperial Credit Commercial Holdings and Imperial Credit Capital Corp. and Wendover Financial Services (IMPAC 2011 021151), Amended and Restated Servicing Rights Purchase and Sale Agreement between Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP and Impac Funding Corp (IMPAC 2011 021200) and Subservicing Agreement dated August 8, 2003 (IMPAC 2011 021290).
  - 65. The loan payment or loan servicing histories for the Class Members' Loans.
- 66. The identification of Your policies and procedures, the documents or records upon which You relied upon, and the computer programs, Internet-based services or other applications that were used by You or that were relied upon by You to satisfy any due diligence or compliance requirement, or to perform such functions for You, in connection with Your servicing of mortgage loans, including the Class Members' Loans.

#### Audits and Loan Repurchases

- 67. Any audits of You or your operations performed by You, a third party retained by You, a third party not retained by You, or any state or federal regulator.
- 68. Any loan repurchase requests made with respect to any loan that You purchased and/or acquired from Preferred Credit Corp., including the Class Members' Loans.

# Joint Defense Agreements

69. Your agreements, if any, with any other Defendant or Defendants related to the defense of this lawsuit.